



MID-TERM ELECTIONS, 2010



SELECTED WEBSITES AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Midterm elections are elections in the United States in which members of Congress are elected, but not the President.

On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of every even-numbered year, on **November 2, 2010**, elections are held for all 435 members of the United States House of Representatives and 37 of the 100 members of the United States Senate.

Presidential elections occur only every four years. Those elections for Congress that do not coincide with Presidential races are called midterm elections, because they occur about midway through a Presidential term.

After the **2008 elections** and their subsequent events, the Senate is composed of 57 Democrats, 41 Republicans, and two Independents who caucus with the Democrats. Of the remaining seats currently up for election in 2010, 19 are held by Democrats (seven of whom are retiring) and 18 are held by Republicans (seven of whom are retiring).

34 of the **50 U.S. states** elect their governors to four-year terms during midterm elections, while Vermont and New Hampshire elect governors to two-year terms in midterm and presidential elections. Thus, 36 governors are elected during midterm elections. In 2010 Utah will hold a special gubernatorial election, but that state usually holds them in the same year as presidential elections.

Midterm elections for the House, Senate, and gubernatorial elections (governorships) are scheduled for **November 2, 2010**. See also: Democrats Abroad / Republicans Abroad

<u>The Constitution</u>	<u>Federal Government</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
<u>Cabinet</u>	<u>Congress</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Congressional Districts</u>
<u>President of the Senate / President pro tempore</u>		<u>Majority Leader / Minority Leader</u>	
<u>House of Representatives</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>U.S. State: Federal States of the U.S.</u>	

Governors: Campaign 2010: Governors races - Of the 50 Governors of US states, 36 are up for election. Most terms are for four years, although some will be for two years, as mandated by each state's constitution in 2010 UT will hold a special gubernatorial election, but that state usually holds them in the same year as presidential elections).

United States House of Representatives: Campaign 2010: House Races - All terms are for two years. **United States Senate: Campaign 2010: Senate Races** - All terms are for six years.



News/Blogs:

Election news resources

The Cook Political Report – National Overview

Political Wire - Facebook

Decision 2010: MSNBC.com

Washington Post – Mid-term elections

BBC NEWS – Q&A: U.S. Mid-Term Elections 2010

The Green Papers: U.S. Midterm Elections 2010

RealClearPolitics / Polls

ABC News - breaking political news / CBS politics news

Congressional Primaries and Filing Deadlines as at 18th May, 2010.

CNN Politics – Elections 2010: What's at Stake; Why Mid-Terms Matter

CNN America Votes 2008 / Washington Post elections news

Connect to Washington Post's Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, etc. / The Plum Line

Political Blog Network: 11 States and Growing

Best Blogs – Politics & Elections / The Washington Note: Latest Blog Posts

Polling

Election 2010: Senate Balance Of Power - *Rasmussen Reports*, August 4, 2010. Rasmussen Reports Balance of Power projections show that Democrats can probably count on having at least 49 Senate seats after Election Day, while Republicans will hold a minimum of 41. In play, however, are 10 Toss-Up races that are likely to be the major storyline of Election 2010.

Playing Defense in a Recession: Republicans in 1982 vs. Democrats today - Prior to Barack Obama and the Democrats, Ronald Reagan and the Republicans faced a similar challenge in the midterm election of 1982... but a Democratic landslide was averted that could have put a stop to the "Reagan Revolution" before it was barely underway. How did it happen? - Crystal Ball

All Politics Is National: Using the Generic Ballot to Forecast the 2010 State Legislative Elections - Eighty-eight of the nation's 99 state legislative chambers are up for election this year. And while these state legislative elections are less glamorous and attract far less media attention than elections for federal offices, their results will have important consequences for the direction of public policy in the states. - Crystal Ball

More States "Competitive" in Terms of Party Identification *Gallup*, July 26, 2010.

Legislature Lowdown: State Legislatures in Play as Redistricting Looms by Tim Storey. *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, July 22, 2010.

Voters Rate Political Parties' Ideologies *Pew Res. Center for People & the Press*, July 16'10.

Poll Finds Americans in an Anti-Incumbent Mood *Washington Post*, April 28, 2010.

Latest Election Polls – *RealClearPolitics*

Washington Post

CRS Reports:

- Issue on Campaign Finance January 21, 2010
- Elections Reform: Overview and Issues February 2008.
- Tax Exempt Organizations: Political Activity Restrictions & Disclosure Regs. Sept.11'07.
- Postponement and Rescheduling of Elections to Federal Office October 2004.



Articles:

Five Myths about Midterm Elections by Norman J. Ornstein. *American Enterprise Inst.*, August 15, 2010.

Grim Voter Mood Turns Grimmer: Pessimism Rises on Economy and War; Bad Reviews for Both Democrats and GOP *Wall Street Journal* online, August 11, 2010.

Four Years Later: Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, August 10, 2010. 26p.

Earmarks Could Help Candidates in Midterm; Palin and Tea Party Connections Could Hurt *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. August 2, 2010.

Candidates with a record of bringing government projects etc. to their districts may have an edge.

Battle for the House Current projections for swing seats for the November 2010 U.S. House of Representatives election; by Real Clear Politics.

This Year's Election May Mirror Democrats' Setback of 1966 by Michael Barone, *Washington Examiner*, Wednesday, August 4, 2010.

The 2010 election has already been compared to a handful of past off-year elections.

Win or Lose: No Voting System is Flawless But Some Are Less Democratic Than Others by Anthony Gottlieb. *The New Yorker*, July 26, 2010.

A look at the theory of voting – and proportional representation.

Governors Voice Grave Concerns on Immigration *New York Times* online, July 11, 2010.

Democratic state governors fear federal lawsuit against Arizona's immigration law may cost votes in November 2010 elections.

Voting Intentions Even, Turnout Indicators Favor GOP *Pew Research Center*, July 1, 2010.

With four months to go before Election Day, voting intentions for the House remain closely divided, and neither party has gained or lost much ground over the course of 2010.

American Culture and the Muslim World by Peter Skerry. *Brookings*, June, 2010.

As the 2010 congressional elections approach and the midpoint of Obama's four-year term looms, it is a good time to reassess.

Hope and Experience: Election Reform through the Lens of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project by John Fortier, Thomas Mann, & Norman Ornstein, *AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project*, June 29, 2010.

The state of election administration in the U. S. almost a decade after the 2000 presidential election, and suggestions as to how additional changes in technology, election law and administrative practices might further strengthen the American election process.

On June 17, **AEI's Election Watch** team convened for the first session of its fifteen season. **Michael Barone, Karlyn Bowman, John C. Fortier, Henry Olsen, and Norman J. Ornstein** looked ahead to future contests, sorted through the election results thus far, and perused all the polls for what they reveal about the mood.

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Preparing for the Worst: Democrats' Fears of 2010 Midterm Elections by Charles E. Cook, Jr. , April 2010.

As Washington and the nation's political establishment sifts through the results of the astonishing Republican victory in the Massachusetts Senate race to fill the seat held by the late Edward Kennedy, Republicans hope and Democrats fear that 2010 will be another landslide midterm election along the lines of the Democratic debacle in 1994 and the Republican disaster of 2006. A Democratic loss of the U.S. House is very possible, and while Democrats likely will not lose their majority in the Senate, they could suffer substantial losses.

Obama Launches DNC "Vote 2010" Midterm Election Effort - Political April 26, 2010.

As President Obama focuses on the DNC's midterm election strategy, he is hoping to bring back some of that 2008 electoral magic. But it won't be easy given the current mood and outlook of the electorate, says David Charlian.

Washington Hold 'Em: The New Era in U.S. Politics by Charles E. Cook, Jr. in *WQ*, October 2009.

With few exceptions, midterm elections are not contests between the two major political parties or even ideology, but are referenda on the president and the president's party. Two years into a new presidency, the public is afforded the opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of their new leader and the direction charted by the new president. Their vote can signal either ratification or call for a midcourse correction. But, to every rule there are a few exceptions, says Cook.

Other Resources:

The Election Reform Project

The 2010 Election

Library of Congress Resources - bibliography, some hyperlinks / **Project Vote Smart**

Printable Maps: Congressional Districts, 111th Congress (2009-2011)

Find a Boundary Map for any Congressional district, plus data profile of the current Member

State Election Laws and Administration / **State Election Directors** / **State Election Officials**

Federal Voting Assistance Program / **U.S. Elections Procedures** / **Survey of Local Election Officials**

Election Administration and Voting Survey FAQ / **The Pitfalls of Voter Identification Laws**

USG Documents – Recent Publications

- **Ben's Guide to Government: The Election Process**
- **2010 Congressional Pre-Election Reporting Dates**
- **2010 Congressional Reporting Dates**
- **Voting Rights Act Reauthorization**
- **Federal Election Commission - Timely Tips**
- **Help America Vote Act**
- **Laws, Rules, & Standards of Conduct Governing Campaign Activity**
- **Party Financial Activity Summarized**
- **Senate Election Law Guidebook**
- **Senators Whose Term Expires in 2011**
- **An International Perspective: Voting Rights are Human Rights**

American Reference Center, U.S. Embassy, P.O. Box 1190, Wellington

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No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed.

